



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# SDDVA HOSTS MINI CONFERENCES FOR COUNTY AND TRIBAL VSOS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted mini training conferences in Sturgis, Pierre and Brookings this week.

Secretary Zimmerman, in his opening remarks, talked about the Department's new websites, the groundbreaking for the new state veterans home, and the Department's goal to reach South Dakota's 75,000 veterans.

The VSO's were updated on the Criminal Justice System and Veterans Justice Outreach Services by staff from the Unified Judicial System. Beginning in July of this year, South Dakota began implementing a Veterans Screening Project to determine how many veterans are currently in the criminal justice system.

The goal of this program is to connect veterans with appropriate treat-

ment services and programs they may be eligible for through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other entities and avoid the need for incarceration.

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard and Veterans Service Officer Heather Henderson addressed the numerous changes in VA policies and procedures that have occurred during FY2013. Henderson also responded to many questions regarding the Fully Developed Claims process.

SDDVA distributed a FDC Check List at both the Fall conference and at the mini conferences and will post this on the VSO Portal on our website.

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## FALL FESTIVAL AT MJF STATE VETERANS HOME

As summer prepares to fade into winter and bursts of fall color begin to appear in Hot Springs, the staff at Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home thought it was a great opportunity to host a fall festival for the residents.

Autumn doesn't merely mean Halloween happenings, this time of year is also ripe for colorful festivals focused on everything from decorations to culinary favorites to music.

So on Oct. 18th, cooks prepared the fish and game that the residents had secured over the past year on their fishing and hunting trips and added to that menu, some corn on the cob, baked beans, corn bread, watermelon, pumpkin cake and pie. There was live blue grass music, dancing, photo ops, and a wonderful opportunity for residents and staff to enjoy nature's harvest.



October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came,  
The Ashes, Oaks, and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The sunshine spread a carpet,  
And every thing was grand;  
Miss Weather led the dancing;  
Professor Wind, the band....  
The sight was like a rainbow  
New-fallen from the sky....  
~George Cooper,





## ZIMMERMAN AND OLIVA REPRESENT SDDVA AT VOC REHAB CONFERENCE

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Field Service Officer Steve Oliva were keynote speakers at the South Dakota Department of Human Services Voc Rehab fall conference held in Pierre last week.

Conference participants were individuals who work with or contract with the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program in providing services for individuals with disabilities (including veterans with disabilities).

Conference topics included PTSD, linking discovery and creative job development, self-advocacy, USERRA, wounded soldiers returning to work, implementation of transition evidence based practices, disclosure of disability, college and career readiness, critical factors in customized employment, work therapy, substance abuse, homelessness, and ethical considerations in rural practice.

Voc Rehab also hosted the South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banners during their conference.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL DIRECTORY COMPLETED

For the past few months, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs has been working closely with County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers to try to identify all of the Veterans Memorials throughout the state of South Dakota.

Counties, Communities, Veterans Service Organizations and business leaders throughout South Dakota have done an outstanding job of creating these memorials.

Our goal, in creating the directory, was to provide bus groups, tourism and bikers the addresses for all of the sites and allow them to incorporate them into their travel itineraries.

We will continue to update the book as we receive more photos and as communities erect new memorials. The directory can be found on our webpage at: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/Veterans%20Memorials.pdf>



*Where Past and Future Heroes Meet*

*Remembering those  
who paid for our  
freedom.*

*Veterans Memorials in South Dakota*

*In appreciation, communities in South Dakota have erected monuments dedicated to those individuals who went off to war and never came back, to those that came back in part, and to all who gave even the smallest effort to protect and serve mankind.*




**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

*Sacrifices they made and deeds they performed shall be written in history, and shall remain alive in our memories for generations to come.*





# DEADWOOD'S VETERANS SALUTE

Honoring All Who Served

**2013**

**Saturday, November 9th**

11:00 am to Noon	SPANISH AMERICAN WAR MEMORIALS IN LAWRENCE COUNTY Presentation at the Deadwood VFW
1:00 - 2:00 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION at Mineral Palace, register for parade
2:00 pm	PARADE from Four Aces to Deadwood Mountain Grand, all Veterans welcome!
3:00 pm	PROGRAM at Deadwood Mountain Grand Events Center
3:00 - 5:00pm	SILENT AUCTION & CASH RAFFLE at Deadwood Mountain Grand
4:00 - 5:00 pm	FREE MEAL Following Program at Deadwood Mountain Grand Events Center
6:00 - 9:00 pm	FREE DANCE at Four Aces with Misfit Band
7:30pm	CASH RAFFLE DRAWING - 2 Winners!

South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banner Display Saturday, Nov. 9th thru Monday Nov. 11th at Deadwood VFW

**Sunday, November 10th**

11:00am - 5:00pm	SUNDAY CASH BASH Six Locations, Six \$100 Winners Six Hours of FUN! at Participating Deadwood Casinos
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*Free admission to Adams Museum, Historic Adams House and Days of '76 Museum, Saturday 10am to 4pm  
Military discounts at participating retailers and FREE METERED PARKING Citywide Nov. 9-11*

*All Proceeds benefit:*

**Wounded Warriors, SD Fallen Heroes Banners & National Cemetery Avenue of Flags  
Event Sponsored by the Deadwood Business Club, Inc.**

*Thank you from*

**D E A D W O O D , S O U T H D A K O T A**



## HONORING VETERANS WITH DISCOUNTS

Veterans Day is soon approaching and there are many restaurants and businesses who want to thank our veterans, for their service to this great nation, by providing them with discounts or a free meal. Here are three websites that have posted information regarding military/veterans discounts:

<http://www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html>

<http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

<http://themilitarywallet.com/veterans-day-free-meals-and-discounts/>

Most companies will require some form of military ID — these include a Military ID Card, a current drivers license with military or veteran designation, veterans service organization membership card or a copy of your discharge papers.

Also, it might be a good idea to call ahead to verify locations, times, and level of participation. Many of the listed companies are franchises and may have different local policies.



## DEADLINE NEARS FOR DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS

Veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-related injury have only a short time left to apply for a program that grants them a partial exemption on their South Dakota property taxes. **Those who have previously applied for, and received this exemption, do not need to reapply.**

Eligible veterans or unmarried surviving spouses of eligible veterans wanting to take part in the Property Tax Reduction for Disabled Veterans Program must apply on or before Nov. 1 to their county assessor. The program exempts the first \$100,000 of valuation of a disabled veteran's property from property taxes.

For the purposes of the program, property is defined as the house (including manufactured and mobile homes), garage, and the lot upon which it sits. Because the budgets and tax levies for the property taxes payable in 2014 have already been set, veterans eligible for this program will first see the reduction in their property taxes payable in 2015.

To be eligible, the veteran must have been rated permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability(ies). Applicants will be required to provide proof of their eligibility.

Applications are now available from county assessors and the Division of Property and Special Taxes. For more information, call the South Dakota Department of Revenue's toll-free helpline at 1-800-829-9188 and select option "2" for the Division of Property and Special Taxes.



# Upcoming Events

## 2013

Oct. 29—South Dakota's Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa Italian Grille—Pierre—8:00 am  
Nov. 9—Deadwood Veterans Salute  
Nov. 16—Shrine of Democracy Chorus and the Abbey Road Band—Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn  
Nov. 18—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
Dec. 14—Wreaths Across America Ceremony Wildwood Mausoleum at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park—300 N. Chapel Hill Road—Sioux Falls—11:00  
Dec. 14—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

## 2014

Jan. 25-26- 235<sup>th</sup> MP Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Chamberlain Cedar Shore Resort  
Jan. 31—SD Veterans Council Breakfast with Legislators—6:30 am  
Feb. 8- 129<sup>th</sup> MPAD Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Rapid City  
Feb 15-16- 152<sup>nd</sup> Reintegration 30 Day Yellow Ribbon Event—Sioux Falls



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